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446th Airlift Wing ✕ Air Force Reserve
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reference section

November 2002
McChord's Home Team
Vol. 24 No. 11

Maintainer comes up with idea to protect C-17 landing gear doors

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
♦ Wing Public Affairs

A thin strip of tape and about an ounce of foam are helping keep the Air Force's fleet of the nearly one-half million-pound C-17 Globemaster IIIs operational for unimproved runways in the Middle East.

But with the leading edge of the doors, it's like they have a bull's-eye target on them.

Norm Stogsdill

Master Sgt. Norm Stogsdill, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, came up with an idea to protect the leading edge of the C-17's four landing gear doors from severe damage from flying rocks, sand and debris from landing in austere runways.

The carbon fiber material on the leading edge of landing gear door took a pounding. So much damage that one plane would be grounded for more than a week just to replace the leading edge material – at a cost of \$2,636 to make repairs.

"The carbon fiber material is great for strength and flexibility, but it doesn't do well with direct impacts," Stogsdill said. "The rest of the landing gear comes out almost free of damage. But with the leading edge of the doors, it's like they have a bull's-eye target on them."

Stogsdill said that 70 percent of the McChord C-17s were damaged while landing on the rough runways. It took two maintainers 96 man-hours to repair the damage to the landing gear doors.

"At one we point, we had 10 (landing gear) doors stacked up like firewood here," Stogsdill said. "That's three planes grounded for a week at a time."

Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay
Master Sgt. Norm Stogsdill, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, examines a portion of the foam protection strip on the leading edge of the C-17 landing gear doors.

Not only that, but McChord basically gets reimbursed nearly \$7,000 per hour from the customers – usually the Army – for C-17 operations. That's a loss of more than \$330,000 per aircraft.

Stogsdill began brain storming and came up with a simple idea.

He heard of a 3M adhesive tape product that was impact resistant. He thought about putting the tape directly onto the landing gear doors, but decided against it because if there was any damage, it might not show through the tape. So he thought about wrapping some tape along the front side of an inch-and-a-half-thick piece of foam cut perfectly to fit the 6-foot-4-inch rib section of

the landing gear door.

Structural engineers weren't about to buy off on his idea about using tape, which resembles the commonly known "speed tape" or duct tape used to make repairs to the \$225,000 airframe. They wanted to see for themselves under test conditions how strong the tape was.

Stogsdill placed a 6-inch piece of the tape on the edge of an 18-inch square piece of composite material. He placed the composite material in a vice on a work table and grabbed a 7-foot solid steel pipe and took his best hacks at the tape.

♦ See IDEA on Page 14

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Sunday, November 17 is the
deadline for articles in the
December issue of the
446th Associate Press.
All articles and photographs
must be turned in to the
446th Public Affairs office,
Bldg. 1205, Room 210
by 4 p.m.

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Giving thanks for what we have

By Brig. General (sel.) Tom Gisler, Jr.

◆ Wing Commander

As the holidays approach, our busy lives seem to get even busier. It is the extra things we all do to try and make Thanksgiving special for our families and friends. But in the hustle of holiday preparation, we need to take the time to simply give thanks for what we have.

We live in the greatest nation on earth where we enjoy the greatest level of freedom in the history of the world. We are not perfect, and we have much we can improve. But what we have, as a nation, is better than it has ever been for anyone who has lived. And we are in a profession dedicated to preserving that standard of living for everyone in this country. We defend the good, the bad, and the indifferent.

This nation has much for to be thankful for including people who help keep this nation free. Especially those, like you, who are our citizen warriors. I see wearing this uniform as a privilege not a duty. We have the privilege to pursue, with all the energy and gusto God has given us, the goal of our profession, — a profession of arms — upholding the ideals upon which this nation was founded.

I had the opportunity to speak to a large group of junior officers recently and what struck me about the group is that we should give thanks for our future as well as for what we have now. I had the chance to talk to a small breakout group, six or seven people. They ranged from a 22-year-old second lieutenant to a 42-year-old first lieutenant. The sense I got from them is that they are very professional. They included lawyers, nurses, cops and a public relations expert from a chamber of commerce. They struck me as young, articulate and having a sense of direction and dedication. They care about this nation.

I talked with them about their futures.

I advised them to put on paper their 5, 10 and 20-year goals. I did this years ago and there isn't much on the list that hasn't happened. Any list of goals should include personal as well as professional goals and how you plan to get there.

We should be training and mentoring our replacements. It is clear to me, from their comments, that what makes a successful career for a junior officer, or junior enlisted, includes supervi-



Photo by Maj. Anna Sullivan
Brig. Gen. (sel.) Thomas Gisler, Jr., shows off a bouquet he received as a congratulations gift from the 446th AMDS. It was announced Oct. 17 that Gisler, along with 12 other colonels, will pin on their first star.

sory involvement in their career. By mentoring someone in the Reserve, we all can help shape the future senior leaders of this force today.

Reservists should also begin developing their own vision and perspective by networking at events like the Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminars or the Leadership Development Program for NCOs. Each one of you can pursue expertise and carry it with you throughout your career.

Major General Danahy, when he addressed the junior officers said, "You are the future. Someday a senior person will hand off the mantle to you to carry on this tradition of service and make it even better." I can tell you, from where I sit, we can be thankful for the leaders of tomorrow.

Cleo and I wish you and your family a holiday season full of celebration of the wonderful things we have and extend our gratitude for all you've done for this wing and this country during the past year.

Tacoma reservist shares battlefield experiences

By Mike Molina

◆ ARPC Public Affairs

An agonizing pain tears through Tech. Sgt. Jim Hotaling's body. His legs and feet strain from the 140-pound pack, which digs into his shoulders and back.

His mind tells him to stop, but the pride that goes with being the only American in his five-man team won't allow him to quit. Knowing that the others want to test their strength against the "American" motivates his every step. He trudges on as the other members of the team, who are also lugging 140-pound packs, continue their way up the 2,300-foot, near-vertical ascent.

When one of the others finally says, "Let's rest," Hotaling lets out a sigh of relief, as he plops on the cold, rocky mountainside somewhere in Afghanistan.

Hotaling is a combat controller in the Air Force Reserve. He's a long way from his home in Tacoma, and a world away from his life as a Washington State Trooper, husband and father. Six months before Sept. 11, 2001, he was asked to be part of the Reserve's individual mobilization augmentee program for CCTs.

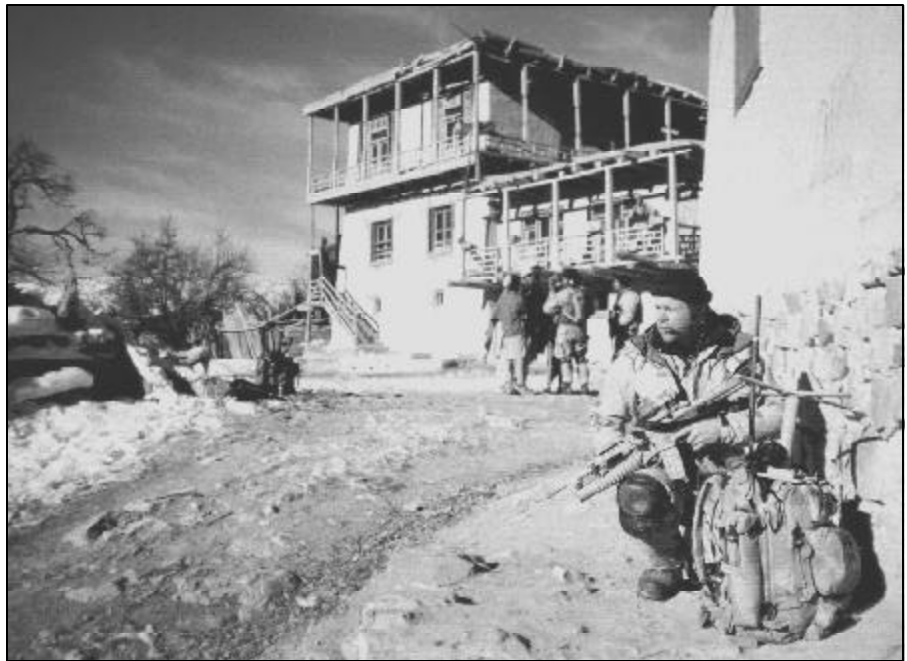
"They called and asked me if I would like to jump, dive and blow things up on the weekends," Hotaling said. "Sure, why not go back and be with the fellas again? What a great job."

By accepting the job, Hotaling became the first and only CCT in the IMA program.

What was once a weekend job became all too real after 9/11. Hotaling was activated days after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. He was assigned to the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, where he spent eight weeks training.

By November 2001, he was in Afghanistan on the front lines of the United States' war on terrorism. He went days without food or a shower and made snow cones out of flavored drink mix and snow to ease hunger pangs.

Hotaling's team nicknamed the mission of climbing the 2,300-foot cliff "the walk of death." The objective was to locate and observe a terrorist training facility. With such high stakes, the team could not afford being spotted by any villagers who might have wandered along. So, the safest way to avoid



Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgt. Jim Hotaling, an Air Force Reserve combat controller assigned to the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron at McChord, crouches against a building in an undisclosed Afghanistan village. The individual mobilization augmentee, from Tacoma, spent five months in the war-torn country tracking down Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

detection was to climb the cliff where few people dare to travel.

"It's not the X Games or anything like that, where you've got safeties and ropes and little helmets and things like that," Hotaling said. "It's do or die. It's a tough thing to do, but in a war it has to be done."

In another situation, Hotaling and his "mates" drove all-terrain vehicles while being chased by a group of enemy four-wheel-drive trucks mounted with 50-caliber machine guns.

"I was able to get a Navy P-3 sub hunter that just happened to be in the area to help me out," Hotaling said. "He has some eyeballs up there, and he was literally able to tell me to turn left, turn right, go down this creek bed, stop here. It allowed us to break contact with the enemy and allowed me to get the close-air support role going. We were able to bring two of my friends from the USS Stennis aboard — two F-18s — to take care of that problem for us."

Hotaling also went on stealth missions gathering evidence, investigating caves, capturing one of the top 10 most wanted Taliban leaders, being surrounded by 300 to 400 "screaming, angry Afghans," and storming Al Qaeda safehouses with as few as five

men. He called in several air strikes, including the one that destroyed the second largest Al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan, a result of the reconnaissance mission that took him on "the walk of death."

During Operation Anaconda when the CH-47 helicopter crashed, his team was positioned atop a mountain some 3 kilometers from the fierce fighting.

"As that was happening, I could see the enemy forces in the valley and on the backside of the south side of the mountain moving their way up toward the crash site to reinforce the bunkers that they had on the high ground," Hotaling said. "I got with Sgt. Brown, and we coordinated the appropriate air support."

"Me and Sgt. Brown fought that day with close-air support and actually started to take a pretty good toll on the enemy, to the point where they were not reinforcing at all. The surviving Rangers on top took the bunker and were successful at the top."

After sharing his combat experiences, Hotaling said, "That feeling we had on 9/11 — keep it burning because we are not done."

◆ AFRC News Service

Reserve employers take off on their day off

By Staff Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine

◆ Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-eight employers came out to the 446th Airlift Wing, Oct. 19, for Employer Orientation Day. "This is fantastic! I'm really happy to be here, I'm just fascinated by planes. I've enjoyed everything so much." These were just a few of the comments heard during the employer day orientation tour, and the C-17 wasn't even "wheels up" yet.

Employers took part in a day of information and fun as they toured the base and met with reservists and the wing's senior leaders. The most exciting part of the day for most was the C-17 flight where each employer was able to visit the flight deck and get a close up view of the Reserve aeromedical mission.

The wing commander, Brig. Gen. (sel.) Tom Gisler, Jr., began the tour with an introduction to the wing and its mission. Gisler compared the C-17 to a video game as he tried to explain the flying operations to the group of employers. For many employers, flying in a military aircraft was more exciting than anything in their lives.

The employers were also given coins to keep up with the military tradition of coining and lottery ticket numbers for the highly coveted drawing to sit with the pilots on the flight deck for take off and landing.

Tech. Sgt. Brad Murrey, 36th Aerial Port Squadron, led the tour through the aerial port squadron and explained how aerial porters handle cargo to and from aircraft. Murrey mentioned that his employer, Qwest Communications, "has always been very supportive and encouraging of my Reserve time."

Tech. Sgt. Rey Mandapat, 446th Maintenance Squadron, demonstrated the ultrasonic inspection process of aircraft composite materials. "The group really didn't have many questions for me," he said. "I think they were more interested in the big tools and equipment we have."

Heidi vonBriesen, a department manager from Key Bank, spent the day in awe of being able to come out for this event. "When Selina, (Staff Sgt. Barone, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron) asked me if I would be interested in joining her today, I was shocked.

"Who gets opportunities like this?" she asked. "My husband will be so jealous," she

added while wearing her headsets on the flight deck. "This is probably the most exciting thing I've ever done."

"This is the first time I've ever been in a military plane, it's cool being able to get to everything," said Patrick Baracker, director of Qwest Communications.

"This is just wonderful," said Karl Case, a juvenile rehabilitation supervisor from Green Hill Training School. "It reminds me of the good old days when I used to be in the military."

Randy Stroyzyk, vice president of operations for American Medical Response, said "We have about 50 reservists activated right now from AMR, and it's great to see what they are a part of. For me today, it's all about going to play in the airplanes."

"I am enjoying every minute of this. You do this very well," said Frank Townsend, a programmer for the Washington State Department of Corrections.

Following the flight, reservists met with their employers for lunch at the McChord Club. The wing commander and group commanders talked with the employers and thanked them for all of the support, especially since many reservists have been activated since last year's terrorist attacks.

Of course, because the employers were issued coins, a coin check was initiated, much to the surprise of many reservists, and the dismay of a few.

"I always have my coin on me, in fact, everyone at my table had their coins. I've never been caught without mine in twenty years," said Murrey. "My employers were even more prepared than I was, they had their coins out in no time at all."

The day wrapped up with a tour of the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine
Brad Barnard, vice president of Survival Incorporated, listens to the pilots communicate over the interphone. Barnard was able to sit on the flight deck while pilots landed the C-17 following the one-hour flight.

workspaces, where employers met with their reservists' military commanders and supervisors. Nearly every employer agreed that they would be able to support reservists better after the orientation.

"This was a very impressive day. The pride the reservists displayed was a great tribute to your process, organization, and leadership," said Kinsley.

Rick Stewart, president of Survival Incorporated said, "Thank you for such a great day, and for your service and contribution to the nation. It is a privilege to serve you and call you friends."

Maj. William Pelster, 446th Mission Support Squadron, talked with several employers.

"They were amazed with the amount of work we do, that it's more than a weekend a month," he said. "And they were really impressed with the Team McChord concept."

"Employer Day was a total success, and I think there was a lot of good interaction between us and the civilian employers," said 446th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Parkhurst. "I know the table I was at had a lot of fun."

Reservists have rights to keep civilian job

By Kenny Pruitt

◆ AFRC Public Affairs

Reservists called to active duty in support of America's war on terrorism want and deserve assurance that they can return to their civilian job.

To help them, Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act in 1994 to keep reservists

out of the unemployment line after their military service commitment ends.

Prompted by the Gulf War as a replacement to the aging Veterans' Reemployment Rights Law, USERRA minimizes the problems that may occur when people are called away from their civilian jobs.

At one point during the war on terrorism, more than 14,000 Air Force Reserve members were mobilized. By early October 2002, that number dropped to 4,800 as reservists demobilized and returned home.

"The 1940 re-employment rights law had been amended so many times that it was confusing and cumbersome," said Capt. Samuel Wright of the Naval Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps. "Instead of coming up with 10 or 15 amendments, we decided to rewrite it."

With clearer wording and reduced red tape, USERRA addresses a number of issues, ranging from the reservists' responsibility to notify their employers to expanded reemployment rights for employees.

USERRA increases the anti-discrimination protection for reservists in hiring, retention and advancement on the basis of their military obligation. Furthermore, employers must make reasonable efforts to retrain or upgrade skills to qualify workers for reemployment following lengthy absences because of military obligation.

"If an employee can't get his or her exact

job back, the employer should provide one with like pay and status," said Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Jess Soto of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's national headquarters in Arlington, Va. "If employers cannot provide like pay and status, they must prove an undue hardship."

In addition, the law expands health care and employee benefit pension plan coverage. It also improves protection for disabled veterans and strengthens enforcement mechanisms for service members who believe their reemployment rights have been violated.

Among the act's most important provisions is the one that expands the length of time that a reservist can be away from civilian employment. With USERRA, an employee can perform duty up to a total of five cumulative years while employed by that employer and still retain his or her reemployment rights. Under the old law, the limit was four years.

Both laws permitted reservists to begin a fresh five-year/four-year limit upon starting a job with a new employer.

Wright said there are many kinds of duty that do not count against the five-year limit, such as unit training assemblies and involuntary deployments. As a result, Wright said, "The majority of reservists never get close to reaching the five-year limit."

What does count toward the five-year limit is special training that is not categorized as professional development and volunteer duty assignments for non-critical requirements.

Educating reservists about the USERRA law is one of the roles of the ESGR headquarters, which was created in 1972 to keep conflicts between civilian employment and military duties to a minimum.

At the local level, each wing under the Air Force Reserve Command is expected to appoint a unit ESGR representative, who works with local Mission One volunteers to provide direct assistance to reservists in the unit. The 446th AW representative is Maj. Anna Sullivan, public affairs, chief.

If local efforts fail to resolve a conflict, reservists can contact an ESGR ombudsman

▼ Responsibility for protecting rights rests with reservists

Enacted by Congress in 1994, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is designed to protect an individual's civilian job when he or she goes on active duty, voluntarily or involuntarily.

However, the individual must meet certain eligibility requirements to be protected by the law. Those provisions include:

- ◆ Holding a civilian job with some reasonable expectation for continued employment;
- ◆ Giving notice to the employer that he or she will be leaving the job for service in the uniformed services, including Reserve component training;
- ◆ Not exceeding the five-year cumulative limit on periods of military service; and
- ◆ Applying for re-employment in a timely manner.

Members of Air Force Reserve and other reserve components can learn more about the USERRA laws by going to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Website, www.esgr.com

◆ AFRC News Service

directly for assistance by going through the HQ ESGR toll-free number 1-800-336-4590.

The headquarters now receives more than twice as many calls as it did before 9/11.

"Around 30 to 40 percent of the callers just want information," Soto said. "The number one question that reservists ask is 'Will I get the same job back when I go back to work.' Although the employee isn't 'bullet proof,' the law benefits the reservists and their families. ESGR is here to ensure both the reservist and the employer are familiar with that law."

◆ AFRC News Service

For more information
log on to...

WWW.ESGR.COM

Ephedra helps users to lose pounds, could lose lives

By Capt. James Lemcke

◆ 446th AMDS

Known as Ma Huang, ephedra is a member of the family of herbs known as the Ephedraceae. It has been used in China for more than 4000 years to treat symptoms of asthma and upper respiratory infections. Today, compounds derived from this herb are commonly found in many over-the-counter cold and allergy medications.

◆ WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

Ephedra contains two alkaloids, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Ephedrine, the main constituent, is a bronchodilator and stimulates the sympathetic nervous system. It has valuable antispasmodic properties, acting on the air passages by relieving swellings of the mucous membrane. Pseudoephedrine is a nasal decongestant and has less stimulating effect on the heart and blood pressure. Physicians use these alkaloids to treat bronchial asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, persistent coughs, wheezing and shortness of breath. Ma huang can help the body to break fevers and clear blocked sinuses. The alkaloids are also effective in treating allergic skin reactions such as hives, relieve general body pain and treat low blood

pressure, rheumatism and narcolepsy.

In addition to cold and allergy medications, ephedra can be found in some popular weight loss and energy products because of its stimulating effect on the nervous system. For dieters it suppresses the appetite and stimulates the thyroid gland which stimulates metabolism. Recently, ma huang has been the subject of scientific research for obesity because of its thermogenic fat-burning effect on dietary intake.

Ephedra can also cause peripheral vasoconstriction, elevation of blood pressure and cardiac stimulation, and is often combined with other tonic herbs to help counteract these effects.

◆ FOUND IN NUTRITION STORES

Ma huang is also found in energy products that may give athletes extra energy without draining their reserves. People also indicate an increase in alertness and perception.

Similar to the diet formulas, it is often combined with ingredients such as kola nut or guarana which contain caffeine. Concerns over the potency of this herb and its isolated alkaloids have prompted increased regulatory scrutiny and industry label warnings.

Complications include general weakness, poor digestion, high blood pressure, ner-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Hanson

vousness, sleeplessness, cardiac arrhythmia's and heart disease. It should not be used if you are pregnant or nursing.

How do these medications affect Air Force Reservists?

◆ SURGEON GENERAL WARNING

Lieutenant General Paul Carlton, Jr., U.S. Air Force surgeon general has written a policy directing that Air Force personnel refrain from use of any products containing ephedra. For anyone with certain medical conditions or those taking some medications, the use of ephedra is especially dangerous and can even lead to death. Potential serious health risks exist for those who fall into any of the following categories:

◆ Operational or training activities that involve high levels of physical activity

◆ Operational or training activities in hot or cold thermal environments

◆ Presence of cardiovascular, respiratory or diabetic disease

◆ Acute febrile illness

◆ Tobacco and caffeine use

◆ Dehydration

◆ Use of other prescription or over-the-counter medications and/or supplements containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine

For your optimal safety, the best advice for Air Force personnel is to just stay away from any products containing ephedra. After all, you may lose more than just your weight.

Facts on Ephedrine

◆ Ephedrine is banned for use by Olympic athletes under the Olympic Anti-doping code of Sept. 2001

◆ More than 20 years ago, ephedra was used in medication as a treatment for asthma, but has been replaced by better treatments, such as Ventolin inhalers.

◆ Side effects include increased heart rate, palpitations, heart irregularities, tremor, insomnia, increased sweating and trouble with heat regulation. It commonly causes an increase in blood pressure and may increase anxiety and alter judgement.

Family Support

▼ 446th has a new director, new programs and classes

Linda's Corner

Hi, I'm the new "Linda" in town.

I replaced Linda Jager who moved on to Portland IAP, Ore. to manage the Reserve Rieth Family Support Center there.



I've been here for almost five months now and I can certainly see why so many of you call the northwest your home.

I moved here from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., where I managed the Family Support Center for the 439th Airlift Wing.

It is very different and quite refreshing being here on a co-located base where you support an active-duty component. The people here are so friendly and energetic about their role in the mission of our wing.

I continually find it amazing and heart-rendering how dedicated the Reserve force is to the mission, how you manage to have another job, perhaps doing something totally different, and take care of your families. I truly applaud all of you!

This supplement is chocked full of great readiness information and updates on future programs.

Take a few minutes to look it over, I am sure you will be glad you did. I am so thrilled to be here serving our Reserve members and their families. I hope you will take time to stop by the center or call to see and hear what we can do for you.

Until then, live well, laugh often and love much!

Linda Rieth
Director, 446th Family Support

American Red Cross

Get to know them before you need them

The Red Cross has a new program to educate Guard and Reserve about the services they offer to military members.

While serving 1.4 million active-duty personnel, the Red Cross Get To Know Us Before You Need Us campaign reaches out to an additional 1.5 million members of the National Guard and the Reserve living in almost every neighborhood in America.

If a military spouse is deployed and there is a life-threatening illness, accident or a death in the family, the Red Cross can help. They will need specific information in order to verify that an emergency situation exists and then they will contact the military unit with the information. With this information, the military unit will evaluate whether the deployed member can return home. This service is for emergency purposes only, but ARC does have other programs to assist family members in all types of situations.

Guard and Reserve members and their families are entitled to the same services as active-duty military members. These services include, but are not limited to:

■ Emergency Communication Network - 24 hours, 365-days-a-week to speed your



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

message to where it needs to go and to facilitate commander decisions regarding emergency leave, etc.

■ Emergency Financial Assistance - Acts as liaison to military aid societies in providing financial assistance for travel, burial of a loved one, or urgent health and welfare needs such as food and shelter.

American Red Cross Emergency Services are available to all members of the armed services, and to their families. Both active-duty and community-based military can count on the Red Cross to provide emergency communications, emergency financial assistance, counseling, veterans assistance and aid in the field where Red Cross workers are deployed to serve with America's military. For more information call toll-free 1-877-272-7337 or visit their website at www.americanredcross.org.

Free holiday photos

Bring your family and your pets to the Chapel Support Center to have pictures taken for the holiday season.

Active-duty, Reserve members and their families are invited to come in Nov. 14, from 4 to 7 p.m. to take advantage of this opportunity to receive two 5 by 7 photos plus the negatives.

Call the 62nd Family Support Center at 253-982-2695 for more information.

Family Support Events & Classes

▼ 446th AW spouse sip and chat

You are cordially invited to attend a 446th AW Spouse Sip and Chat Dec. 7 and 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1207. All military spouses are encouraged to attend either session, to find out what's new at the Family Support Center and discuss issues and concerns. This is a great opportunity to interact with other military spouses who may share your background and offer alternative solutions to a family in need. Children are also welcome to attend.

▼ Christmas Tree Angel program starts Nov. 1

A Christmas tree will be put up in the Family Support Center beginning Nov. 1. The program is designed to help 446th assigned military and civilian families in need by providing an extra gift for their children. Everyone is encouraged to join us in this holiday endeavor by letting us know of families who need help and by sponsoring an "Angel." All information is kept confidential and the Family Support Center will act as the liaison between the sponsor and the "Angel." Call the Center if you need more information on how to help.

▼ Family care planning prevents last minute stress

Many families believe that once you complete the AF Form 357, you're done with taking care of your military requirements. Not so. A complete written plan should be provided to your caregiver that outlines large and small details of their future responsibility. A handy reference guide is available at the Family Support Center and is designed to provide an example of how to write a family care plan.

▼ Money management preserves future

A money management guide is available at the family support center. This manual helps members and families get what they want out of life by managing their money wisely.

Worksheets and clear, concise text guide readers through budgeting, opening a bank account, balancing a checkbook, record keeping, financing large purchases and much more.

▼ Financial Management classes at The Family Support Center

How to Develop A Spending Plan, "A" and "B" UTAs, Sundays, 9 to 11 a.m. and 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 1-3 p.m.

Checkbook Management, "A" and "B" UTAs, Saturdays, 3 to 4 p.m., and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1-2 p.m.

▼ Resume writing for civilian and government jobs

Come for the tips, tools and techniques of writing your civilian or government resume and leave with a positive experience that just might get you a better job! Interviewing techniques and information on internet job searches will also be available. Class will be held on the "A" & "B" UTAs from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., and the first Monday of each month, 1-2:30 p.m.

▼ Enhancing relationships / Best Friends Forever

This program helps couples communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, man-

age conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment, and friendship. Each couple receives the book, "Fighting for Your Marriage," by Drs. Howard Markman, Scott Stanley, and Susan Blumberg, and a participant manual.

There are four-session classes available in November and two-session classes available in December.

▼ Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families

This two-session class is scheduled for Nov. 16 and 17 at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day, at the 62nd MSS Family Support Center. Good families, even great families, are off track 90 percent of the time. The program shows how your family can move from a



(Left to right) Brandon, Master Sgt. Chris and Master Sgt. Cori and Jordan is a loadmaster with the 7th Airlift Squadron, while wife Cory is assigned

problem solving to a creative mind set, focusing on accomplishing goals and contributing together in meaningful ways. Each couple will receive their own book, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families," a couples manual, and two audiocassette programs.

▼ Couples and Money

Dec. 5 and 12, 6 to 9p.m. each night at Bldg. 1216, the 446th Operations Group auditorium. Money is the number one problem for couples because money isn't simply about dollars and cents. This program reveals sound principles of money management and provides you with practical tools to uncover the deeper, often hidden meanings of money and conquer the problems it raises in your relationship. Each couple will receive the book, "You Paid How Much for That," by Drs. Scott Stanley, Howard Markman, Mrs. Natalie Jenkins and Mr. William Bailey, in addition to a participant manual.



Photo by Kevin Tosh
Dockery look over maps prior to a trip that Chris is about to leave on. Chris d to the 446th Maintenance Operations Flight.

New family support resources

▼ Deployment Planners for TDYs

For TDYs more than 30 days, there are resources available outlining ways to bring families together to develop strategies for keeping the TDY experience a positive one. Each month provides guidance in sequence with the deployment process; issues addressed include identifying resources to access, planning to communicate as often as possible, making decisions about finances, and finding ways to keep children reassured and in touch with their absent parent. Months and dates can be tailored to families' TDY time frame. Date boxes help families keep track of appointments and "to-do's," and count down the days until reunion.



▼ Write from the heart

Letter writing kits are created especially for extended TDYs, and designed to fit in a duffel bag, helmet bag, or BDU cargo pocket. This unique correspondence kit contains writing materials in a variety of formats, letter-writing tips to family members of all ages, envelopes and stickers. It can help even the most reluctant letter writer keep family and friends informed, entertained and reassured that they are loved and missed.

▼ After the call, return and reunion guide

This guide was developed to help Reserve mem-

bers and their families prepare for what sometimes turns out to be the most challenging part of a prolonged absence, return of the military member and then reunion with family or significant other. This guides reviews helpful tips for returning members and families on reunion and the single member, reunion and marriage, reunion and children, reunion and single parents and finally, reunion and work. Being separated from your family and home is not an easy task - this guide can help you understand the reunion process.

▼ Long Distance Couples Activities Handbook

Relationships are much like plants, they need constant nourishing. When you are together, this type of nourishment comes easily through the activities and time spent with each other. However, when you are away from each other this becomes more difficult to accomplish. More information is available at www.longdistancecouples.com.

▼ Advice for parents at a distance

Dad's at a Distance and *Mom's Across the Miles*, are two books that have been written to help fathers and mothers strengthen their relationships with their kids when they have to be away for work or other reasons.

There are ideas from the book available online at www.daads.com and momsovermiles.com.

These resources have 120 activities that long-distance moms and dads can do to help strengthen and maintain relationships with their children when they have to be away from them.



To reserve a class or request material, contact the 446th Family Readiness Center at 253-982-5330, 1-888-984-6724 or familysupport@mcchord.af.mil

Family Support
Pullout Section

Family Support Resources

◆ A. F. Crossroads provides G.I. Mail and chat line for spouses

A new service is available through the Air Force Crossroads web site. G.I. Mail is now available to facilitate morale communication among "away from home" members and their families. Find out more at www.afcrossroads.com and select the Communications Center file. From there you will find all the needed instructions to set up your G.I. Mail account. Only members and families who are registered in the DEERS system can set up a G.I. Mail account. Spouses can also register to join a Chat Line for military spouses. Learn how to navigate military life better with the help of other military spouses who have already walked in your shoes. Go to www.afcrossroads.com for more information or to sign up for an account.

◆ "Hearts-Apart" morale calls saves families money

The Hearts-Apart Program permits you to use the Defense Switching Network for morale calls to your deployed reservist spouse.

When your spouse outprocesses for TDYs 14 days or more in duration, you will be signed up by the 446th Family Support office. The 446th Family Support Office will then coordinate through the 62nd Family Support Center to register you to use this valuable benefit. Calls cannot incur any cost to the government. Spouses can then call the McChord AFB operator at 253-982-1910 and request a morale call be placed to their spouse that is deployed. Calls are limited to 15 minutes per call, once a week.



Successful Homecoming Tips

The following are tips for returning service members:

- ◆ Plan on spending some time with the entire family doing family things, but be flexible if teens have other plans.
- ◆ Show interest and pleasure in how your family members have grown and mastered new skills in your absence and let them know you are proud of them. Comment on positive changes.
- ◆ Expect it will take a little time to become re-acquainted with your spouse. Be sure to tell them just how much you care about them. Make an effort to do the little romantic things—a single rose, a card, etc. shows them they are in your thoughts.
- ◆ Resist the temptation to criticize. Remember that your spouse has been doing her or his best to run the household single-handedly and care for the children while you were gone. Give them credit for their efforts, even if their way of doing things is different from yours.
- ◆ Take time to understand how your family may have changed during the separation. Go easy on child discipline—get to know what new rules your spouse may have set before you jump into enforcing the household rules.
- ◆ Don't be surprised if some family members are a bit resentful of your deployment. Others often think of the deployment as more fun and exciting than staying at home—even if you know otherwise.
- ◆ Infants and small children may be shy or even fearful around you at first. Be patient and give them time to become reacquainted.
- ◆ Resist the temptation to go on a spending spree to celebrate your return. The extra money saved during deployment may be needed later for unexpected household expenses.
- ◆ Most importantly, make time to talk with your loved ones. Your spouse and each child need individual time and attention from you. Remember, focus on the positives and avoid criticism.

◆ Taken from www.afcrossroads.com

◆ Soldier And Sailor Relief Act post-mobilization requirements

Once you're demobilized, you must contact any creditors, mortgage lenders, etc. to notify them of your return to traditional reservist status. Generally, protections terminate within 30 to 90 days after the date of discharge. Should you have a financial situa-

tion that would not allow you to return to previous higher percentage rate payments right away, be sure to discuss this with the creditor or lender. In many cases, they may provide you some adjustment time. You can also call the Family Support Center for assistance in working out payment arrangements.

446th Family Readiness Center

Phone: 253-982-5330 or 1-888-984-6724

Email: familysupport@mcchord.af.mil

Bill appropriates nearly \$3.4 billion for Air Force Reserve

Air Force Reserve Command will get \$3.4 billion to operate and man the air reserve component, a \$300 million increase compared to last year.

President George W. Bush signed the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Oct. 23 during a White House ceremony. The bill allocates \$355 billion to all of DOD, \$37 billion more than last year.

During the ceremony, the president also signed the \$10.5 billion FY 2003 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which includes \$67.2 million for AFRC programs.

The president noted the security of the American people is the first commitment of the American government. "Our nation faces grave new dangers, and our nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf," Bush said.

"We owe them every resource, every weapon and every tool they need to fulfill their missions," he said. "The best military in the world must have every advantage required to defend the peace of the world."

AFRC appropriations for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2003, permits a Selected Reserve end strength of 75,600 – 61,196 drilling reservists, 12,906 individual mobilization augmentees, and a full-time Active Guard and Reserve cadre of 1,498 members. Last year the command received funding for an end strength of 74,700, including 1,437 AGRs.

This year's Defense Appropriations Act calls for a full-time air reserve technician force of 9,911, an increase of 93 ARTs compared to last year.

Under the reserve personnel appropriation, the Air Force Reserve receives nearly \$1.2 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses. This year's RPA funds a pay hike of 4.1 percent for military personnel. Last year's RPA budget called for \$1.061 billion for the Reserve.

Another \$2.2 billion goes to operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and administer the command this year. O&M funds pay for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruit-

ing, and communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment. Last year the command got an O&M budget of \$2.005 billion.

Although funded for in a separate account, the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard are to get \$12.5 million for Guard and Reserve equipment. This funding was not included in the president's budget proposal for FY 2003.

The Defense and Military Construction Appropriations Acts provide the funds to carry out programs, but the National Defense Authorization Act allows DOD to spend the money. As of Oct. 23, the president had not signed the FY 2003 NDAA.

Congress adjusted AFRC funding recommended in the President's Budget proposal for FY 2003. The president had proposed \$3.434 billion to run AFRC and \$31.9 million for its MILCON program. After making funding realignment offsets, Congress deducted \$7 million from the RPA account and \$28.8 million from O&M funding but added \$35.3 million to MILCON spending.

◆ AFRC News Service

Command gets \$67 million for military construction

Eight Air Force Reserve Command unit locations are on tap to receive funds for major construction projects, alterations or additions as a result of the fiscal year 2003 Military Construction Appropriations Act.

President George W. Bush signed the \$10.5 billion Department of Defense military construction package Oct. 23, which includes \$67.2 million for AFRC.

In his proposal to Congress in February, the president recommended \$31.9 million for the Air Force Reserve's MILCON program that covers the fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2003.

Part of the suggested budget included just under \$11.9 million for four major projects at Portland International Airport, Ore., to support conversion from a combat rescue to a KC-135 air refueling mission. The projects are constructing a new fuel system along with related facilities, \$6.4 million; building the first phase of a consolidated training facility, \$1.6 million; altering maintenance shops, \$2.65 million; and modifying a maintenance hangar, \$525,000.

The President's Budget also earmarked

\$3.66 million for planning and design, \$5.16 million for unspecified minor construction, and \$11.9 million for command judgment funding. The FY 2003 MILCON Appropriations Act provides the funds to carry out

programs, but the National Defense Authorization Act allows DOD to spend the money. As of Oct. 23, the president had not signed the FY 2003 NDAA.

◆ AFRC News Service

MILCON provides funds to Reserve units

◆ **Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.** – Improvements to medical training facilities, \$2.15 million.

◆ **Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.** – A Defense Emergency Response Fund visitor center, \$2 million.

◆ **Homestead ARB, Fla.** – A services complex, \$2.5 million, and a DERF perimeter fence, \$1.1 million.

◆ **March Air Reserve Base, Calif.** – Runway surfacing, \$2.55 million; modifying general maintenance shops, \$2 million; adding to and changing squadron operations facilities, \$1.7 million; and altering the life support facility, \$3 million.

◆ **Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.** – Phase four of lodging construction, \$6.3 million.

◆ **Portland International Airport** – Projects related to conversion from combat rescue to a KC-135 air refueling mission, \$11.9 million.

◆ **Schriever AFB, Colo.** – Consolidated space group operations facilities, \$6.9 million.

◆ **Westover ARB, Mass.** – A security forces operations facility, \$3.85 million.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Hanson

Three recruits take the oath of enlistment administered by Maj. Barb Henson, 446th MXG.

Reserve recruiters remain successful

By 2nd Lt. John Fage

◆ AFRC Public Affairs

Despite the occasional use of reading glasses over his contact lenses, the vision of Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service's vice commander has never been clearer when it comes to recruiting.



They're (recruiters) intelligent, trustworthy, love what they do, and enjoy informing the public of the many benefits the Air Force Reserve offers.

Kevin Reinert

"Our goal is to field the best trained salespeople in the Department of Defense," said Col. Kevin Reinert, a 13-year veteran of active-duty and Reserve recruiting. "It's a crowded marketplace. Other military services and companies from the private sector are competing for the best young people America has to offer."

Despite those challenges, AFRC recruiters lead the way in accessions per recruiter in the Department of Defense, with each re-

cruiter averaging about 42 recruits each year. And, Reinert wants them to remain No. 1.

"All our recruiters are volunteers," he said. "They're intelligent, trustworthy, love

what they do, and enjoy informing the public of the many benefits the Air Force Reserve offers. Even so, that combination won't guarantee success."

According to Reinert, benefit-driven competition, increasing applicant demands for quality recruiting, entry, and long-term commitment experience, along with a growing requirement to know the applicant's needs and interests better are factors in the mounting need for improved recruiting services.

The large active-duty and reserve component drawdowns provided Air Force Reserve recruiters with a "target-rich" environment in the early 1990's. Therefore, the command was able to maintain its end-strength. Unfortunately, by the second half of the decade, the prior-service Air Force market showed signs of drying up, and lean recruiting years followed.

"We failed to make end-strength for several reasons," Reinert said. "We were short on recruiters, advertising dollars and training. Thanks to our senior leadership, we eventually got great support in all three areas."

Modernized training ranks high on Reinert's list of priorities.

"Recruiting is one of the only career fields in the Air Force that doesn't offer its members Career Development Courses," he said. "Following four weeks of sales training at Lackland Air Force Base (Texas), a recruiter reports to the field and is expected to start putting up numbers a short time later. There's

on-the-job training offered by the supervisor, and it may last up to a year. However, recruiters are expected to perform on their own because they may not be collocated with their trainer."

In late 1999, Reserve Recruiting turned to the private sector for new ideas and entered into a contract with the Brooks Group, a sales training consulting firm headquartered in Greensboro, N.C.

"We introduced a new, non-manipulative selling philosophy and system during our national awards banquet in New Orleans in January 2000," Reinert said. "It's called IMPACT and stands for Investigate, Meet, Probe, Apply, Convince, and Tie-It-Up. It was a tough sell to get people to buy into the new system. People were used to doing business one way, and now we were asking them to do something different."

In April 2001, Col. Francis "Mike" Mungavin assumed command of the organization and shortly thereafter completed the IMPACT training class himself. Sold on the idea that the IMPACT system was the way to go, Mungavin committed the resources to make the program work.

"We contracted with the Brooks Group to teach our people to become IMPACT experts," said Reinert. "And just as importantly, Bill Brooks, the chief executive officer of the Brooks Group made us an offer we couldn't refuse. For a nominal charge, he sold us the 'rights' to use the IMPACT system at the recruiter school."

Starting in January 2003, the curriculum at the Basic Recruiter Course will reflect the IMPACT Selling System philosophy.

Besides increased recruiter production, Reinert said there's a long-term individual value in the IMPACT Selling System.

"We offer every recruiter the opportunity to earn a certification as an IMPACT Selling System Professional," Reinert said. "It's similar to the board certification a doctor can earn. It takes a lot of study time, comparable to professional military education, but once earned, the certification clearly identifies the recruiters as specialists in their chosen field."

"Furthermore, when our recruiters retire from recruiting duty, they can take their certification with them to the private sector," he said. "More than 500 commercial companies employ the IMPACT Selling System, and most would be glad to higher someone who's been designated an expert."

Reservists interested in a recruiting career may call the Reserve Recruiting Service at DSN 382-9078 or 253-982-9078.

◆ AFRC News Service

'Hanoi Taxi' returns to duty with new look



Photo by Lt. Col. Philip Pierce
Twenty-five years ago, this C-141, known as the "Hanoi Taxi," (above) was the first aircraft that flew Vietnam POWs to freedom.

Photo by Dan Doherty
Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. James Sehorn reads the signatures on display in the "Hanoi Taxi" of fellow prisoners of war from the Vietnam War. Sehorn was taken prisoner Dec. 14, 1967, and released March 14, 1973. He commanded the 446th Airlift Wing from Feb. to Dec. 1990 and many other Air Force Reserve flying wings. Sehorn was the Reserve's director of operations before his retirement in Dec. 1996.



The "Hanoi Taxi," the Air Force's flying tribute to the Vietnam War's prisoners of war and missing in action, received a makeover and a hero's sendoff from Robins Air Reserve Base, Ga., before returning home Oct. 7.

◆ THE FIRST PLANE OUT

The C-141 Starlifter was the first aircraft to airlift American POWs to freedom from Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi, North Vietnam, Feb. 12, 1973.

The 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, which owns Aircraft No. 66-0177, asked Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command for permission to repaint the aircraft in the 1970's white and gray paint scheme. AFRC officials approved and funded the work, which was done while the aircraft underwent programmed depot maintenance at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center here.

Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier, one of the POWs repatriated aboard the Hanoi Taxi, flew the historic aircraft from Robins back to Wright-Patterson.

"It was the most beautiful thing I had seen in six years," said Mechenbier, mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Force Materiel Command, referring to the first time he saw the Hanoi Taxi.

Mechenbier, a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours, was assigned to Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam, and was on his 80th mission over North Vietnam when his F-4C fighter was shot down in June 1967. He spent nearly six years as a POW before taking his ride in the Hanoi Taxi.

Middle Georgia POW/MIA groups, C-141 maintenance workers who worked on the aircraft, 445th AW crewmembers, and Headquarters AFRC and Robins officials

participated in the sendoff ceremony Oct. 7.

◆ FLIGHT TO FREEDOM

The Hanoi Taxi's name comes from the writing on the flight engineer's panel by the POWs aboard the plane for the freedom flight. Signatures of the freed prisoners have been preserved on the panel over the years and are the centerpiece of what is essentially a "flying museum." Plaques, documents and photographs of the homecoming are part of the on-board exhibit researched and created by the 445th AW. Etchings of the names of those who are missing in action were taken from the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., and are mounted on the plane.

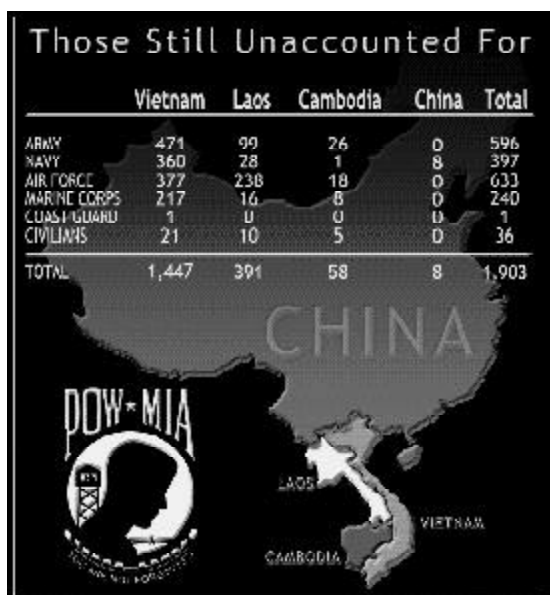
◆ WHAT THIS PLANE MEANS TO THE NATION

"The Hanoi Taxi is a tribute to the men and women who serve in the Air Force," Mechenbier said. The general added that it is important for the American public to know about the airplane and what it means to the nation.

The aircraft, which has been upgraded to a C-141C with improved avionics, is used to transport troops and cargo worldwide. It is one of four C-141s flown by the 445th AW that were involved in Operation Homecoming, the repatriation of American POWs in the Vietnam War.

All C-141s are scheduled to be retired from the Air Force inventory by 2006.

◆ AFRC News Service



Infographic by Adamarie Lewis Page

◆ 446th reservists meet famous funny man



Air Force Photo
(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Brian Lidyard 446th AMXS, Mr. Robin Williams, and Tech. Sgt. Lee Kul-hoon, 446th AMXS and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Diermyer, 27th AMXS pose for a picture. Williams was recently visiting U.S. troops overseas.

Families wanted for Christmas “adoption”

Family Readiness had a call from a unit wishing to “adopt” a family in need (not from their unit) for this Christmas to provide dinner essentials and presents for the children. If anyone knows of a family in need, please call Family Readiness at 2-5330 and they’ll get the information to the

unit. If more than one name is received, Family Readiness will contact more units to step up and “adopt” a family. (446th MSS/FR)

AFSA hosts Coat Drive for area families

SMSgt. Cheri Lewis, Wing Training Office, is assisting the McChord Chapter of AFSA with their annual coat drive. If

you have new or “gently used” coats, hats and gloves and would like to donate to area families, please drop them off in Bldg.1205 from now through Nov. 20. Our goal within the 446th AW is to gather at least 250 coats, so clean those closets out! (446th MSS/DPMT)

Wing commander nominated for brigadier general

Col. Tom Gisler was nominated by the president to pin on a star as a new brigadier general. Also on the nomination list are two former 446th members, Col Marty Mazick and Col Rusty Moen. Gisler’s pin-on date will be determined after Senate approval of the promotion list. (446th AW/PA)

Tickets available for Michael Jordan’s final Northwest appearance in March

Don’t miss your last chance to see Michael Jordan play ball here in Seattle’s Key Arena. The game is March 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Discounted tickets are available.

For prices and more information contact Keith Armstrong at 206-272-2634.

IDEA

◆ Continued from Page 1

“I took four swings,” Stogsdill said. “All full force. Nothing. No damage.”

He took the composite material out of the vice and rotated it so a side with no tape was facing off. He took two swings with the same solid steel pipe. Both blows caused damage.

“Enough damage to ground an aircraft,” he said.

The engineers were impressed and gave the OK to do actual tests on McChord C-17s shortly after October 2001. Stogsdill and his coworkers put the protective foam material on six of the C-17s that were heading over to do combat landings

on dirt strips. When the aircraft returned to McChord, none of the aircraft had any damage to the landing gear doors.

The idea of the protective foam covering became reality and made a mandatory item in September 2002 on all of the Air Force’s fleet of 91 operational C-17s.

Since September, 35 C-17s at McChord have been fitted with the \$747.08 protective material and have gone on to make landings on unimproved runways in the Middle East. Out of the 32 aircraft, how many returned with damage to the leading edge of the landing gear doors?

“None,” Stogsdill said, somewhat surprised that it would even

be questioned. “Not a single repair has been needed.”

The Air Force has a complex formula to figure out the cost savings of Stogsdill’s idea for the entire C-17 fleet. All total, the savings are nearly a million dollars a year.

Stogsdill doesn’t know yet what his monetary award for his official idea will be. Back when the program was called the Suggestion Program, the reward was based on a percentage of the overall savings to the government. That’s not the case now with a maximum award of \$10,000.

“I don’t know how much I’ll get for it,” Stogsdill said. “But \$10,000 isn’t so bad for a simple idea.”

Flu Shots available beginning this UTA

The 446th AMDS will continue administering flu shots. The location will be the desk right next to the Immunization Clinic at Bldg. 690, where physicals are accomplished. The desk is labeled on the wall as "Family Medicine Appointment Check In." Flu shots will not be given at the regular immunization clinic. Only regular shots will be given there. Drug Testing will be conducted at the Family Practice Patient Support desk, just to the right of the flu shots. This is not a test - signs will be posted.

The hours for the flu shot "clinic" will be the same as the regular immunization clinic: Saturday, 8 to 11:30 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. Sunday, 10 to 11:30 p.m.

New Address Change form available at Reserve Customer Service

Customer Service has a new Address Change form dated Jan. 24, 2002. Please ensure that unit members use the latest version of the form. Customer Service cannot properly update the address without all required information. The older version of the Address Change form is obsolete and will no longer be accepted after Oct. 31, 2002. You may come to Customer Service and get a copy of the newer version form.

Paper airline tickets available with approval

If paper tickets are a mission requirement, you must ensure there is a statement included in the orders. This statement should preclude any problems getting reimbursed on your travel voucher if there is an added fee for paper tickets. (446 AW/FM)

McChord's Federal Women's Committee plans Holiday Luncheon

The Federal Women's Committee is planning their December Holiday

Luncheon. Their first meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 12 to 1 p.m., at the 62nd Medical Group Conference Room. Please call if you would like to be part of the planning committee. For more information contact Cathi Rose at 253-982-7580. (FWC)

446th OG, Group Career Assistance Advisor Vacancy, "A" UTA

The 446th Operations Group has an opening for a Group Career Assistance Advisor. The applicant for this position must either be a master sergeant or must immediately meet all requirements for promotion to master sergeant. In this position you will be the principal advisor, during the "A" UTA, to the 446th OG/CC, supervisors, and OG Unit Career Assistance Advisors on retention issues. Candidates must possess knowledge of the organization, mission, policies, and personnel programs with emphasis on personnel, administration and counseling techniques. Applicants should submit a letter of recommendation from their commander and a military resume to 446th OG/CC no later than 19 Nov. For more information contact Master Sgt. Kathy Solis, Wing Career Assistance Advisor at 982-7427.

War on terrorism

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, says Air

Force reservists' response to the war on terrorism has been spectacular. "Across nearly every career field at locations around the world, reservists have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and devotion to duty," he said. "Some are being asked to extend their mobilizations for as much as 12 additional months. For them and the rest of Air Force Reserve Command, the war on terrorism is our top priority and will remain so for the foreseeable future."

Crossroads puts information at user's fingertips

The Air Force Crossroads Web site has become the service's "Yellow Pages," putting community and service information at the fingertips of active-duty airmen, Reservists, Air National Guard members, retirees and their families and civilian employees. The site pools Internet resources from Air Force, Department of Defense and civilian sources into a single location that is available to members of the Air Force family throughout the world.

Although people can access the site from any computer, and there are areas open to the public, for security reasons access to much of site's resources requires users to register for access. Membership is limited to people in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Once

verified, people are required to create a username and password. For more information, go to www.afcrossroads.com.

Newcomers

Captain
Laura Mallatt, 446th MSG

Master Sergeant
Ricky Edwards, 313th AS

Senior Airman
Scott Melsha, 446th MXS
David Williams, 446th MOF

Promotions

Airman first Class
Rex Barber, 446th CES

Airman
Samuel Flemister, 446th AES

Retirements

Captain
Mark Gates, 446th AMDS

Senior Master Sergeant
Ann Matthews, 446th AES
David Folsom, 313th AS

Master Sergeant
Robert Weaver, 446th MXS
David Brittin, 313th AS
Duain Dugan, 313th AS
Sherman Hammer, 313th AS
Richard Mizner, 313th AS

Technical Sergeant
Grant Walsh, 446th AMXS

Name changes in maintenance squadron effective Oct. 1

With the Oct. 1 reorganization of the wing, the Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS) changed its name to Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS). Here are some of the other changes.

446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Maintenance Supervision
Deployment
Aircraft Maintenance Flight
Silver Aircraft Maintenance Flight
Blue Aircraft Maintenance Flight
Red Aircraft Maintenance Flight
Aircraft Support Flight (ASF)

446th AMXS
MXA (formerly LGG)
MXAD (formerly MOB)
AMF (formerly SGF)
MXAA (formerly LGGA)
MXAB (formerly LGGB)
MXAC (effective Jan 03)
MXAS (formerly LGGS)

DECA offers scholarships for military children

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children program opens for business Nov. 1 and the burning question is "how has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational goals?" That's the essay topic for 2003 and if the two previous years are any indication, it's a question applicants should consider carefully when applying for the \$1,500 scholarships.

"According to program administrators, the essay has been a key factor in deciding recipients," says Edna Hoogewind, program liaison for the Defense Commissary Agency. "Although the minimum grade point average to apply for these scholarships is 3.0, the average recipient has a 3.8 or better. The grades of the applicants are so high that factors such as community involvement, activities and the essay become extremely important."

The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation, best known for building family comfort homes near military medical facilities.

"We're certainly pleased to administer this program as it serves the military community exclusively and is rapidly becoming one of the premiere scholarship programs worldwide," says Jim Weiskopf of Fisher House Foundation. "We utilize the services of Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs. They do everything relating to the process of deciding who



is awarded a scholarship and it's a very painstaking process when you have more than 5,000 applicants."

The Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million in its first two years. All funds for scholarships are donated by the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that provide products for sale in military commissaries, which are recognized as a valuable quality of life benefit and an integral part of the military community. "Most of the scholarship recipients also participate in formal recognition ceremonies, which take place each spring and summer at local commissaries," says Hoogewind.

Applications for the 2003 program can be downloaded from <http://www.commissaries.com> or <http://www.fisherhouse.org> starting Nov. 1.

They can also be picked up at any commissary. The deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb. 21, 2003. "That's in the store," reminds Hoogewind.

"There are very few changes from last year," says Hoogewind. "The essay topic is new and we have a two-page instruction sheet to make things easier for the applicants. The application can also be filled out on a computer, then printed and mailed or delivered to the nearest commissary. It should be an improvement over handwritten applications for both the student and Scholarship Managers."

The scholarship program is open to dependent unmarried children (under the age of 23) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and that they have a current ID card. All applicants must be citizens of the United States.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003. Students attending a community or junior college must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

◆ DECA

446th Associate Press



The 446th Associate Press is printed for "longtime" associates like David Langford, 446th Mission Support Squadron, who is retiring after nearly 40 years of dedicated federal service.

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